

The Use of Cellophane in Papering Duplicates

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The use of cellophane in papering duplicate specimens of Coleoptera by the following method permits observation of the specimens for condition or determination at any time and avoids the necessity of opening the paper with consequent possibility of damage to dry specimens.

First cut a piece of stiff cardboard to convenient size, about one by two and one-half inches is suitable for most species; place over this a layer of cellucotton of equal size; arrange the relaxed specimens on the cellucotton, leaving one-half inch or more free of specimens at each end; then on top, center a piece of cellophane an inch or more longer and three or more times as wide as the cardboard underneath, hold firmly in place and turn the whole upside down; place india ink or penciled label inside; bring the edges of the cellophane together and by a fold-over fold, as used by druggists, fold down tightly; fold over the projecting cellophane ends and staple thru each end of the cardboard with a wire stapling machine. If preferable, label data may be written directly on the lower side of the cardboard where it can be easily read thru the folded cellophane. A good grade of non-moisture-proof cellophane should be used.

Bohart, Richard M., Strepsiptera - An Insect Oddity, Ward's Nat. Sc. Bull., 21:28-29, 1947.

The Strepsiptera are peculiar insects which are sometimes included with the beetles [the excuse for including this in the bulletin], but more often placed in a separate order. Most of the recent authors have followed the latter course. It is the one exception to the rule that beetles form a compact, distinct group, without loose ends. These insects are all parasitic, and are greatly modified for this parasitic life, hence the difficulty in placing them taxonomically.

Mr. Bohart, in this article for the Ward bulletin has given a fine account of their structure, habits and range. The following quotes serve to illustrate this: "... the adult female of Xenos lives her entire life as a motionless parasite of a Polistes wasp. She has no legs, no wings, no eyes, no palpi, no genitalia, no intestinal tube, no spiracles, no muscular system, and no circulatory system. She is neither an endoparasite nor an ectoparasite in the strict sense because her head and thorax, fused into a solid plate, protrude from the host, and her abdomen is internal. ... the logical question is 'What does the female Xenos have?' " The article then goes on to explain what she does have and how she uses it. "Strepsiptera are found on every continent and on most islands. Their ancient history is attested by a beautifully preserved fossil male in Baltic amber. Their recorded hosts are several hundred species scattered through the Hymenoptera, Homoptera, Hemiptera, Orthoptera and Thysanura. ...they are always a rarity in collections. ... In tropical areas light trap collecting is profitable..."

R.H.A.